Abstract of the Disclosure

An apparatus and a method authenticates a user according to biometric information such as a fingerprint, voice, etc. The authentication apparatus comprises a biometric information input unit, an extraction unit, an estimation unit, a request unit, an authentication information input unit, a biometric feature information registration unit, an authentication information registration unit, a biometric feature information matching check unit, an authentication information matching check unit, and a determination unit. The biometric information input unit inputs biometric information. The extraction unit extracts biometric feature information from the input biometric information. The estimation unit estimates the matching precision of the extracted biometric feature information. The request unit requests an input of additional authentication information. The authentication information input unit inputs authentication information. The biometric feature information registration unit preliminarily stores registered biometric feature information. The authentication information registration unit preliminarily stores additional registered

authentication information. The biometric feature information matching check unit has a matching check between the extracted biometric feature information and the registered biometric feature information. The

5   authentication information matching check unit has a matching check between the input authentication information and the registered authentication information. The determination unit computes the matching precision by combining the matching check

10   result about the biometric feature information with the matching check result about the additional authentication information, and determines based on the computation result whether or not the user is authenticated. Other biometric information can be

15   input instead of the authentication information to authenticate the user based on the matching check result about plural pieces of biometric feature information.